

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for ~~providing direction of calls~~ automatically directing a ~~calling communication unit~~ to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone ~~without ringing the wireless phone~~, the method comprising:

registering the wireless phone for direct multimedia mail service, the direct multimedia mail service allowing calls to go directly to the multimedia mailbox associated with the wireless phone;

receiving a ~~direct multimedia mail~~ call request for the wireless phone ~~from a calling communication unit~~, the direct multimedia mail request being a request to go directly to the ~~multimedia mailbox of the wireless phone without first ringing the wireless phone~~; and

directing the ~~call request~~ ~~calling communication unit~~ to the multimedia mailbox associated with the wireless unit without ~~ringing the wireless unit~~ ~~attempting to communicate with the wireless phone~~.

10. (Currently amended) A method for ~~providing direction of calls~~ automatically directing a ~~calling communication unit~~ to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone ~~without ringing the wireless phone~~ in accordance with claim 9, the method further comprising the step of determining whether the wireless phone has subscribed to direct multimedia mail service.

11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Currently amended) A method for providing direction of calls automatically directing a calling communication unit to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 10, the method further comprising the step of sending the call request to the wireless phone if the wireless phone has disabled the direct multimedia mail service.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone, the communication system comprising:

a call processing control entity for registering the wireless phone for direct multimedia mail service, the direct multimedia mail service allowing calls to go directly to the multimedia mailbox associated with the wireless phone;

a subscriber database coupled to the call processing control entity for storing the registration for direct multimedia mail service of the wireless phone;

a multimedia mail system coupled to the call processing control entity; and

a base station coupled to the call processing control entity for receiving a direct multimedia mail request for the wireless phone, the direct multimedia mail request being a request to go directly to the multimedia mailbox of the wireless phone without first ringing the wireless phone attempting to communicate with the wireless phone.

15. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 14, wherein the base station directs the direct multimedia mail request to the call processing control entity, wherein the direct multimedia mail request comes from a calling party, and wherein the calling party is directed to the multimedia mailbox of the wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone attempting to communicate with the wireless phone.

16. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 14, wherein the call processing control entity is a Mobile Switching Center (MSC).
17. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 16, wherein the MSC includes a Service Circuit (SVC).
18. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 14, wherein the subscriber database is a Home Location Register/Visitor Location Register (HLR/VLR).
19. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 14, the communication system further comprising a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) coupled to the call processing control entity for providing communication with landline users.
20. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 14, wherein the call processing control entity is a Call Session Control Function (CSCF).

21. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 20, wherein the CSCF includes a Multimedia Resource Function (MRF).
22. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 21, wherein the MRF determines the intention of a calling party and sends a message to the CSCF, the message instructing the CSCF to perform specified functionality based upon the intention of the calling party.
23. (Currently amended) A communication system for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone in accordance with claim 14, wherein the subscriber database is a Home Subscriber Server (HSS).

24. (Currently amended) A call processing control entity for providing automatic direction of calls calling communication units to a multimedia mailbox of a wireless phone without ringing the wireless phone attempting to communicate with the wireless phone, the call processing control entity comprising:

a processor for registering a wireless phone for direct multimedia mail service, the direct multimedia mail service allowing calls to go directly to the multimedia mailbox associated with the wireless phone;

an input port for receiving a direct multimedia mail request for the wireless phone from one of the calling communication units, the direct multimedia mail request being a request to go directly to the multimedia mailbox of the wireless phone without first ringing the wireless phone attempting to communicate with the wireless phone; and

an output port for directing the call one of the calling communication units request to the multimedia mailbox of the wireless unit without ringing the wireless unit attempting to communicate with the wireless phone.

25. (Original) A call processing control entity in accordance with claim 24, wherein the processor determines whether the wireless phone has subscribed to direct multimedia mail service.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) A call processing control entity in accordance with claim 25, wherein the processor sends the call direct multimedia mail request to the wireless phone if the wireless phone has disabled the direct multimedia mail service.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method for connecting a calling communication unit with a multimedia mailbox associated with a wireless phone, the method comprising:

receiving a call request at a call processing control entity from the calling communication unit, the call request being a request for direct access to the multimedia mailbox associated with the wireless phone; and

routing the calling communication unit to the multimedia mailbox without attempting to communicate with the wireless phone.